



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 September 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports that after Hurricane Rita, power outages were reported across wide swaths of Texas and Louisiana, leaving more than a million customers without electricity, and one utility spokesperson said it could be weeks before service is fully restored. (See item [1](#))
- Reuters reports the U.S. Treasury has called for more international action in designating groups and individuals as linked to terrorism and freezing their assets, saying doing so is a key to preventing attacks (See item [5](#))
- Agence France–Presse reports amid the danger of an avian flu pandemic, the U.S. has launched a global coalition to lobby Asian governments to tighten enforcement on the growing trade in smuggled wildlife. (See item [23](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 25, Associated Press* — **Power outages continue, but signs from Texas oil area encouraging.** Hurricane Rita smacked a key region for oil-refining with less force than feared on Saturday, September 24, an encouraging sign to industry officials and analysts who

cautioned it was still too early to assess the full extent of the damage. "There will be some modest disruption of supplies of gasoline and other products," said William Veno, an analyst at Cambridge Energy Research Associates, "But I don't think it's going to be as severe a situation as Hurricane Katrina." Power outages were reported across wide swaths of Texas and Louisiana, leaving more than a million customers without electricity and one utility spokesperson said it could be weeks before service is fully restored. Based on computer modeling and initial reports, the Energy Department said it was cautiously optimistic about the nine refineries in the Houston area. "But we really need to look at the Port Arthur region and other areas directly impacted," spokesperson Craig Stevens said. Before Rita hit, 16 refineries in Texas accounting for 2.3 million barrels per day of capacity shut down and evacuated crews. Four refineries in Louisiana and Mississippi whose output had been more than 800,000 barrels per day remain closed almost a month after Hurricane Katrina, and a significant amount of oil and natural gas output has not returned.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-24-oil-refinerie s-wait\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-09-24-oil-refinerie s-wait_x.htm)

2. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Brief power outage affects customers in Los Angeles.** A brief power outage hit 40,000 utility customers in downtown Los Angeles and several neighborhoods to the east Friday, September 23, officials said. The outage occurred when four banks of transformers at an electrical substation went offline, officials said. One bank of transformers had been shut down for maintenance. "When we brought that back on, we're uncertain for the reasons, but it relayed and triggered the other ones going off," said Ron Deaton, general manager of the city Department of Water and Power. Power was restored in five minutes but one bank of transformers remained offline. It was unclear whether mechanical or human error was involved but the outage was under investigation, Deaton said. The outage did not appear related to one last week that affected two million people, Deaton said.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2005/09/23/state/n103304D6L.DTL>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

3. *September 24, The Arizona Republic* — **California car wreck raises questions about identity theft, payments to IRS.** An accident this month in California that spilled thousands of personal checks and income-tax vouchers from Arizona and 12 other states into San Francisco Bay has raised identity-theft concerns and will prompt an unknown number of taxpayers to resubmit

their payments. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) says 45,000 personal checks were dumped onto the San Mateo–Hayward Bridge and into the bay. About 15,000 mail pieces were recovered. The accident involved an IRS contract–courier truck that was carrying a shipment of tax materials from the postbox to a lockbox check–processing office in Hayward, CA, which will process roughly two million payments this month. The driver, heading east at 5:30 a.m. on September 11, made an unsafe turn and hit another vehicle, scattering cardboard boxes, papers and envelopes, according to a California Highway Patrol spokesperson.

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/0924irs24.html#>

4. *September 23, Vnunet.com* — **Spoof e–mail tricks AOL users.** An e–mail scam is targeting AOL customers in an attempt to steal personal details, according to Web monitoring company Websense. Users receive a spoofed e–mail purporting to come from the security department at AOL claiming that the company suffered a security breach over the weekend and that confidential information may have been compromised. The e–mail also requests users to connect to a Website to download and install a new security patch, which will protect their information. Ross Paul, product marketing manager at Websense, said: "This is a blended threat that we haven't seen before. It combines the threat of a security breach with a link to a download that masquerades as a patch but in fact requests sensitive user information." Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2142715/aol-users-hit-hack-attack>
5. *September 23, Reuters* — **U.S. Treasury wants net cast wider in freezing assets.** A U.S. Treasury official on Friday, September 23, called for more international action in designating groups and individuals as linked to terrorism and freezing their assets, saying doing so is key to preventing attacks. Most countries have taken steps to block assets of people and groups associated with al Qaeda, said Daniel Glaser, assistant secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes. However, many countries have taken little or no action to block assets of other terrorist groups, as United Nations resolutions permit, Glaser said in remarks prepared for delivery to a seminar at World Bank–International Monetary Fund meetings. "It is urgent for countries throughout the world to begin to develop effective administrative mechanisms to provide these UN resolutions with the bold effect they were meant to have on terrorist support networks," Glaser said. He also said countries must adopt and implement effective anti–money laundering and terrorism counter–financing controls. That is particularly important for regions, such as the Middle East, that are viewed by the financial sector as more at risk for money laundering or terrorist financing activities, Glaser said. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20050923/pl\\_nm/economy\\_usa\\_terrorism\\_dc\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20050923/pl_nm/economy_usa_terrorism_dc_1)
6. *September 22, Reuters* — **Credit bureaus to adopt data protection standard.** The top three U.S. credit reporting companies said on Thursday, September 23, they would adopt a single, shared encryption standard to better protect the huge amounts of sensitive electronic data they receive every day from banks, retailers and credit–card companies. Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, which maintain huge databases on hundreds of millions of Americans, said the joint effort would involve the development and adoption of a data–cloaking code built on an encrypted algorithm and 128–bit, secret–key technologies. The coordinated effort by the three traditional rivals is the latest proof of the serious threat posed by identity thieves and Internet–enabled crooks — and the unprecedented lengths business is going to in order to fight back. According to a report by Symantec, the world's biggest maker of security software,

programs designed to steal confidential information accounted for three-quarters of viruses during the first half of 2005, up from 54 percent in the last six months of 2004.

Symantec Internet Security Threat Report:

<http://enterprisesecurity.symantec.com/content.cfm?articleid=1539>

Source: [http://news.com.com/Credit+bureaus+to+adopt+data+protection+standard/2100-1029\\_3-5877870.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Credit+bureaus+to+adopt+data+protection+standard/2100-1029_3-5877870.html?tag=nefd.top)

7. *September 22, TechWeb News* — **New phish deceives with phony certificates.** A new, advanced form a phishing dubbed "secured phishing" because it relies on self-signed digital certificates, can easily fool all but the most cautious consumers, a security firm warned Thursday, September 22. Internet security vendor SurfControl said that it's seen one instance of such an attack, and expects more. The new phish blends traditional elements with the new twist of a self-signed digital certificate, said Susan Larson, SurfControl's vice president of its global threat analysis and research group. It starts the same as most phishing attacks, with spammed e-mails urging recipients to click on a link to update a financial account. However, this campaign goes above and beyond the typical. The spoofed site uses the HTTPS protocol so that the browser shows the standard "lock" icon designating a secure site. Additionally, the site serves up a self-signed SSL digital certificate (self-signed, meaning the subject of the certificate is also the signer). That's where the trouble really starts, said Larson. "In self-signing, you become your own certificate [issuing] authority," noted Larson. "Many enterprises have their own self-signed certificates that they use to secure documents within the company. But the very scary thing here is that most people don't know that self-signed certificates exist," said Larson.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/171100298;jsessionid=JIA55XLPW02YQSNDBGCKH0CJUMEKJVN>

8. *September 22, InformationWeek* — **Financial firms look more to cyber security.** Financial-services companies are ramping up efforts to protect themselves from hacking incidents, especially ensuring that software developers and business units take responsibility for building security into their applications. The focus of application security is "evolving from the perimeter," said Wendy Walasek, VP at Morgan Stanley & Co., at the Cyber Security Executive Summit in New York on Thursday, September 22. The company has taken a multifaceted approach to information security, including developing security "blueprints," providing developers with tools and services for information security, and training. Information-security experts can help developers by pointing out potential vulnerabilities, such as exposure to an "SQL injection attack," said Walasek, referring to a form of attack that bypasses firewalls to steal information from a database or gain access to an organization's host systems. The consciousness level of business users has been raised by the barrage of incidents involving lost and stolen data this year, as well as regulations such as Sarbanes-Oxley that stress the need for security access controls. "Users are more accepting of the need to build security into applications," said Jennifer Bayuk, chief information security officer at Bear, Stearns & Co. Business users are consulting with information-security staff prior to launching IT projects, Bayuk said.

Cyber Security Executive Summit:

[http://secure.imn.org/~conference/im/index2.cfm?sys\\_code=50504\\_TE\\_0010&header=on](http://secure.imn.org/~conference/im/index2.cfm?sys_code=50504_TE_0010&header=on)

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=JIA55XLPW02YQSNDBGCKH0CJUMEKJVN?articleID=171100277>

9. *September 22, Associated Press* — **Acting governor signs comprehensive identity theft legislation.** New Jersey consumers and businesses will receive tough new tools to combat identity theft because of a package of bills signed into law Thursday, September 22, by acting Governor Richard J. Codey. The bills had broad and bipartisan support in the Legislature and offer several new safeguards. Those protections include allowing consumers to put a security freeze on their credit reports, permitting them to file a police report when they suspect identity theft, and limiting how and when businesses can publicly display customers' Social Security numbers. The credit report freeze makes it more difficult for criminals to get additional lines of credit once they steal someone's information. Consumers would initiate a freeze by writing directly to the three major credit reporting agencies or contacting them through a secure electronic process provided by the credit agencies. The law also will change how New Jersey businesses collect, store and purge personal data. The law also mandates that businesses destroy old records containing personal information rather than throw the records away. Another aspect of the law bars the use of scanning and re-encoding devices, which identity thieves use to gain access to encoded information on ATM, credit and debit cards. The law takes effect January 1. Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj---identitytheft0922sep22.0.5136164.story?coll=ny-region-apnewje rsey>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *September 25, USA TODAY* — **Some Houston flights resume after Hurricane Rita.** Flights resumed at Houston's two commercial airports Sunday, September 25. Continental Airlines, which operates its largest hub at Houston Bush Intercontinental Airport, said it resumed its mainline flights there on Sunday morning. But the carrier added that its regional Continental Express and Continental Connection flights out of Houston would not begin until Monday. Flights at Houston's Hobby Airport were experiencing sporadic delays Sunday because of "hurricane recovery" efforts, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Passengers were likely to find operational hiccups at Houston Bush, too, as flight schedules returned to normal levels. For Continental, the problems extended beyond the airline's canceled Houston flights. Shutting down one of its largest hubs — even if just for two days — was expected to be a major financial blow for the airline, one of just two full-service carriers that has not filed for bankruptcy since 2001. Meanwhile, commercial service remained grounded at Louisiana's Lake Charles Regional Airport according to the FAA, which said it was "not known" when the facility would reopen. Various wire reports said the Lake Charles airport appeared to receive substantial damage from Rita. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-09-22-rita-changes\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-09-22-rita-changes_x.htm)

11. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Lightning strikes two airliners taking off from Honolulu.** On Friday, September 23, within one hour, two planes were hit by lightning after they took off from Honolulu International Airport. Hawaiian Flight 20 to Sacramento, CA, took off about 1:30 p.m. local time, and was about five to 10 minutes into the flight when the front of the plane was struck by a lightning bolt, Scott Ishikawa, a spokesperson for the state Department of Transportation, said. The plane with 274 passengers and crew returned to the airport as a precaution, and landed safely, Ishikawa said. An hour later, Aloha Flight 270,



carrying 119 passengers and crew, lifted off for Kona International Airport on the Big Island, and again within five to 10 minutes had been hit by lightning, he said. The Aloha flight also returned safely to the airport, Ishikawa said.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-24-hawaii-lightning-planes\\_x.htm?POE=TRVISVA](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-24-hawaii-lightning-planes_x.htm?POE=TRVISVA)

12. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Federal Aviation Administration says Airbus model is safe.** There have been at least seven cases in which the front wheels on Airbus A320s became stuck in a sideways position, forcing pilots to make emergency landings. No one was hurt in any of the landings, the latest of which occurred Wednesday night, September 21, in front of a national television audience when a JetBlue plane touched down in Los Angeles amid smoke and sparks as the front tires disintegrated. The incidents, while unnerving, are considered anomalies and have not prompted federal authorities to take action beyond ordering airlines to follow Airbus instructions for replacing rubber seals on the gear. With about 2,500 Airbus A320s in operation worldwide, the number of incidents involving jammed nose gear is not significant, Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson Greg Martin said on Thursday, September 22. The A320 family, which includes the A318, A319, and A321, has a somewhat unusual landing gear that rotates before retracting into the fuselage. "It's definitely not the most common way," said Chuck Eastlake, a aerospace engineering professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. "The reason is that the ability of the nose wheel to rotate 90 degrees introduces the possibility of failure, exactly like what we saw."

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2005/09/23/faa\\_says\\_airbus\\_model\\_is\\_safe/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2005/09/23/faa_says_airbus_model_is_safe/)

13. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Police: Passenger arrested for hypothetical bomb question at airport.** An elderly man was arrested at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT, on Thursday, September 22, after saying the word "bomb" in a hypothetical question to an airline gate agent, state police said. Mahmoud Abouelleil, 68, of Farmington, CT, missed his Northwest Airlines flight to Minneapolis shortly before 6 p.m. (EDT), but his baggage made it onto the plane, state police said. Authorities said Abouelleil then asked the airline gate agent, "What if there's a bomb in my bag?" Officials ordered the plane back to the gate, and members of the state police bomb squad searched Abouelleil's bag. No bomb was found. The flight was delayed about two hours. Abouelleil was charged with falsely reporting an incident.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-23-bomb-question\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-23-bomb-question_x.htm)

14. *September 23, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation staging generators and ships to provide power, fuel and storage for rescue operations.** Large electrical generators are being staged to provide power, emergency vehicles are being safely stored on ships and a vessel designed to serve as a floating gas station are all on standby to support rescue and recovery operations in the wake of Hurricane Rita, Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced on Friday, September 23. Mineta said, "We are prepared to deploy ships and generators to help teams save lives, restore basic services and begin the reconstruction process." Secretary Mineta added that more equipment and resources can and will be made available to support evacuation, relief and recovery operations as needed by Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas state, and local officials.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot13605.htm>

15. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Northwest bankruptcy puts airport expansion on hold.**

The Metropolitan Airports Commission has halted the planned expansion at Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport, as Northwest Airlines — which had pushed for the expansion — deals with bankruptcy and downsizing. The commission, which controls the airport, may see other fallout from Northwest's bankruptcy filing. The commission is one of Northwest's largest secured creditors. It loaned the airline \$275 million in general obligation bonds. And while the debt is secured, the collateral includes Northwest's Minneapolis–to–London route, which will be suspended for about four months starting October 30. Northwest accounts for 35% of the airport commission \$200 million operating budget. Northwest has not made any moves to renegotiate its terminal lease, and the airline declined to comment about the situation.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-23-nwa-minn\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-23-nwa-minn_x.htm)

16. *September 22, USA TODAY* — **Storms a big blow to airline profits.** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are threatening the slim hopes several U.S. airlines had of earning third-quarter profits. The reasons: storm-disrupted flight schedules and jet fuel prices pushed to previously unimaginable levels. Before Katrina hit on August 29, a handful of carriers — Southwest, JetBlue, Continental, American and AirTran, for example — were expected to have a shot at a profitable July–September quarter. High travel volume historically has made the third quarter the best for making money. But the effects of storms on flight schedules and energy markets have reduced the list of likely moneymakers to one: discount leader Southwest. Three Texas-based carriers — American, Continental and Southwest — are the most vulnerable to widespread schedule disruptions because of their volume of flights in Gulf Coast cities and in Texas. Fuel, not disruptions, is the biggest concern. According to consulting firm Oil Price Information Service, the price of Gulf Coast jet fuel bumped up Thursday to about \$2.25 a gallon amid worries about Rita disrupting refining and pipeline operations. The price just before Katrina hit on August 29: \$1.89 a gallon. U.S. airlines have lost about \$35 billion since 2000.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-22-storms-profits\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-22-storms-profits_x.htm)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

17. *September 24, Charleston Gazette (WV)* — **More deer test positive for chronic wasting disease.** More West Virginia deer have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Brain tissue samples from three animals, killed by wildlife-agency sampling teams, registered “suspect positive” results under tests performed by the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. If confirmed by a follow-up test, the results would indicate that the disease’s recently discovered presence in Hampshire, WV, wasn’t an isolated case. All of the 45 deer tested to date came from within a five-mile radius of Slanesville, a rural town in

north–central Hampshire County. The three that tested positive came from different herds and were killed on different landowners' properties. Because the CWD–affected area lies within nine miles of the Virginia border, 11 miles of the Maryland border and 24 miles of the Pennsylvania border, wildlife officials in those states have been keeping a close eye on the West Virginia DNR's sampling efforts. CWD is a neurological disorder found in white–tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. Scientists suspect that infectious proteins, known as prions, slowly attack the brains of infected animals, causing them to behave strangely, become emaciated, and die.

Source: <http://wvgazette.com/section/News/2005092353>

18. *September 22, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Meeting to receive input on privatized animal tracking database.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Thursday, September 22, announced a public meeting to discuss development of a privatized animal movement–tracking database under the National Animal Identification System. The meeting, with stakeholders and members of the public, will be held October 12, in Kansas City, MO. Topics to be discussed at the meeting include: the formation of a new entity representing all affected industry sectors to develop and provide ongoing oversight of the privatized animal tracking database; and the required system specifications and user requirements necessary to support animal health surveillance programs and trace back investigations.

Source: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/09/naistrac\\_vs.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/09/naistrac_vs.html)

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## **Food Sector**

19. *September 23, Food Safety and Inspections Service* — **Ground beef patties recalled.** Flanders Provision Co., Inc., a Waycross, GA, establishment, is voluntarily recalling approximately 184,000 pounds of frozen ground beef patties that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Friday, September 23. The products were distributed to retail stores nationwide. FSIS was notified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the epidemiological investigation results that linked the product to a human illness. E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea, and dehydration.

Source: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_040\\_2005\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_040_2005_Release/index.asp)

20. *September 23, University of California, Davis* — **University of California awarded funds for food safety center.** The U.S. Senate has allocated one million dollars to establish the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Western Center for Food Safety and Defense at the University of California, Davis. The new center will be a cooperative research effort with UC Davis' Western Institute for Food Safety and Security. It will be the first FDA food safety center to address the food safety needs specific to California and the Western U.S. Three other FDA food–safety research centers are located in Maryland, Illinois, and Mississippi. The funding will enable the FDA to establish collaborative research programs among its three existing food safety laboratories and the new center, as well as identify collaborators who will join the UC Davis center. The new center will focus its immediate research efforts on pre–harvest food safety and security, seafood safety, point–source contamination within food systems, and border security.

Source: [http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news\\_detail.lasso?id=7487](http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=7487)



## **Water Sector**

**21. *September 22, American Water Works Association* — Katrina's damage to water systems.**

The costs to repair and replace public drinking water infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Katrina will surpass \$2.25 billion, according to a preliminary assessment from the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The AWWA report estimates costs to repair or replace assets such as treatment plants, storage pumping, and related control facilities impacted by storm surge, flooding and other factors. It also analyzes the impact of revenue shortfalls due to the inability to service debt, particularly in communities where customers have relocated and the system is inoperable. However, it does not include the costs of critical recovery activities such as pipe flushing and disinfection, interim operating needs such as power generation, and cleaning up contaminated source waters. "While the preliminary cost estimate for replacing and repairing water infrastructure is significant, we expect the full cost of restoring water systems to pre-Hurricane Katrina status could be much higher," said Jack Hoffbuhr, AWWA executive director. The report estimates that \$1.6 billion will be required for 47 water systems serving more than 10,000 persons, with an additional \$650 million required in 885 smaller, primarily groundwater systems. The systems are all in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Katrina Cost Estimate Report: <http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/katrina/>

Source: <http://www.awwa.org/Advocacy/pressroom/pr/index.cfm?ArticleID=499>

## **Public Health Sector**

**22. *September 24, Associated Press* — Department of Homeland Security medical chief seeking volunteers.**

The Department of Homeland Security's new chief medical officer says he would like to improve the government's medical response to disasters by creating a network of trained volunteers. "My bias is we should take advantage of volunteers and make it easy for them to volunteer their service, lowering the barriers with liability issues and logistical issues so that kind of thing could take place without further burden on the taxpayers," Jeffrey Runge said in an interview with The Associated Press. "What we don't want to do in the future is to have the need to improvise. And that gets to the heart of this medical preparedness issue," he said. Runge said he would like to find an economical way to harness the enormous volunteerism among medical professionals, so trained doctors, pharmacists, medical technicians, and nurses can work alongside the permanent federal crews in disasters. "The taxpayers already have a burden to supply a lot of these assets and we need to make sure that we don't overtax them for that purpose and yet have access to people who could actually kick in times of need," Runge said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/24/AR2005092400759.html>

**23. *September 23, Agence France-Presse* — U.S. launches campaign against Asia wildlife trade.** Amid the danger of an avian flu pandemic, the U.S. launched a global coalition to lobby

Asian governments to tighten enforcement on wildlife trafficking. The growing trade in smuggled wildlife, according to experts, has increased the risk of infection by the avian influenza virus, which has killed at least 63 people in Southeast Asia. The U.S.-led global Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking "will focus its initial efforts on Asia, a major supplier of black-market wildlife and wildlife parts to the world," the State Department said. Seven major U.S. based environmental and business groups with global interests and programs have joined the coalition. Deputy U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Environment Claudia McMurray announced the formation of the coalition at the conclusion of the Wildlife Film Festival in Jackson Hole, WY, on Friday, September 23. Partners in the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking are already working with the government of Thailand and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the State Department said. Wildlife trafficking is a soaring black market worth \$10 billion a year.

State Department release: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2005/53926.htm>

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050924/pl\\_afp/usasiahealthfluwildlifetrafficking;\\_ylt=AqaNR7HjyUA6bYrZysZAGzKJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050924/pl_afp/usasiahealthfluwildlifetrafficking;_ylt=AqaNR7HjyUA6bYrZysZAGzKJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

24. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Health emergency declared for Texas, Louisiana.** Federal officials declared a public health emergency for Texas and Louisiana Friday, September 23, in anticipation of Hurricane Rita's strike. The government already had moved some emergency medical supplies to Texas, but Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt declared a public health emergency to ease some of the requirements for hurricane victims who seek Medicaid or other assistance after the storm, a spokesperson said.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=1153424>

25. *September 23, Agence France Presse* — **Philippines prepares in case of bird flu.**

Veterinarians and disease experts are gathering in the Philippines to discuss plans in case bird flu outbreaks from neighboring Indonesia and Vietnam reach the country. "Meetings of regional coordinators, epidemiologists and veterinarians have been called from all over the country," the health department said Friday, September 23. The Philippines archipelago shares sea borders with Indonesia and Vietnam, which have both reported deaths from outbreaks of avian influenza. So far, the health department said there was no evidence "of human cases of bird flu in the country," nor were there such outbreaks among birds "which are the primary source of possible human infection." A strain of bird flu known as H5N1 has killed 63 people in Southeast Asia since 2003. The World Health Organization fears that H5N1 may mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious and lethal to millions in a global pandemic.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050923/hl\\_afp/healthfluphilippines\\_050923105738;\\_ylt=AswWOZoOs0BVr4sMn4aoDSqJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050923/hl_afp/healthfluphilippines_050923105738;_ylt=AswWOZoOs0BVr4sMn4aoDSqJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

26. *September 22, Reuters* — **Airport screening unlikely to stop disease spread.** Screening passengers at airports for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and influenza will probably not prevent the global spread of the illnesses, health experts said on Friday, September 23. Researchers at Britain's Health Protection Agency (HPA) who assessed the benefit of screening if an epidemic occurred said it would not pick up enough cases to be worthwhile. The researchers said the long incubation period of five to 12 days for SARS would allow only a

small proportion of infected people to be detected. On a 10-hour flight from East Asian countries, a maximum of 21 percent of SARS infected people would be expected to be picked up. Flu has a much shorter incubation period of one to two days than SARS but the number of infected people detected through airport screening would be small, and most would be missed, according to the scientists. Researchers calculated that if a person was infected with flu two days before their flight they would have a 50 percent chance of developing symptoms during a 10-hour flight. But as most flights are less than 10 hours, the scientists estimate less than 10 percent of people would develop symptoms during a flight.

Source: [http://olympics.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2005-09-22T231549Z\\_01\\_KWA283346\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-SCREENING.xml](http://olympics.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2005-09-22T231549Z_01_KWA283346_RTRUKOC_0_US-SCREENING.xml)

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## **Government Sector**

27. *September 23, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-888: Department of Homeland Security: Strategic Management of Training Important for Successful Transformation (Report)**. Training can play a key role in helping the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) successfully address the challenge of transformation and cultural change and help ensure that its workforce possesses the knowledge and skills needed to effectively respond to current and future threats. This report discusses (1) how DHS is addressing or planning to address department wide training and the related challenges it is encountering; (2) examples of how DHS training practices, specifically those related to planning and evaluation, reflect strategic practices; and (3) examples of how DHS uses training to foster transformation and cultural change. The Government Accountability Office recommend that the Secretary of Homeland Security (1) adopt additional good planning practices, specifically, creating a clearer crosswalk between training goals and DHS's organizational and human capital strategic goals and developing appropriate performance measures and targets; (2) specify authority/ accountability relationships between CHCO and components on training; (3) ensure the department and components develop detailed training implementation plans; and (4) when setting funding priorities, give appropriate attention to supporting training councils and groups. DHS generally agreed with the report's recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05888high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-888>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

28. *September 23, Morning Sentinel Online (ME)* — **Mass casualty drill in Maine set to test area response**. Saturday morning, September 24, firefighters, police, ambulance personnel, and hospital officials from Somerset, Kennebec and Franklin County, ME, responded to a mock collision between a car and a train that featured a chemical release and many bodies on Norridgewock, ME's, Depot Street. The Norridgewock disaster drill's objective was to test

communication and cooperation between the various agencies. As many as 51 agencies took part in the six-hour "mass casualty full-scale exercise." In October of 2003, about 80 people attended a "tabletop exercise" in Skowhegan, ME, that brought hospitals, police and municipal officials together in a conference room to work out the details of communication, traffic control and decontamination in the wake of a chemical disaster. Saturday's drill was an outgrowth of that exercise, bringing agencies that now have new training and equipment together to practice their ability to work together under circumstances meant to mimic those of a mass casualty event. While Saturday's exercise was a mass casualty accident drill, the training involved is also applicable to other types of disasters, including hurricanes, ice storms and hazardous materials incidents.

Source: <http://morningsentinel.maine.com/news/local/1986684.sht ml>

29. *September 23, Reuters* — **Italy to stage bomb attack emergency drill.** Friday, September 23, Milan, Italy's financial capital simulated bomb attacks on its train network and a mock scenario in which a hostage took one of its airports in order to prepare police, firemen and ambulances for an eventual emergency. City authorities said the bombings in Madrid, London and Sharm el-Sheikh had shown how important coordination and planning was for the different emergency services. At 10:00 GMT, there will be a simulated bomb explosion on the Malpensa airport express train as it pulls into Cadorna station in central Milan. Another fake bomb attack will be staged on an underground train stopping at Cadorna. Later, at Milan's Linate airport, police will stage the pursuit of a suspected bomber, who ends up taking a hostage. The whole exercise is expected to last 75 minutes.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4845>

30. *September 23, Seattle Times (WA)* — **Washington puts response plan to the test in four disaster exercises.** More than a dozen federal, state and local agencies in Washington simulated a terrorist attack Sunday, September 25, on an out-of-service ferry heading to Coleman Dock from Bainbridge Island, WA. The training exercise was designed to test a newly formulated response plan for terrorist attacks on the water. The Seattle, WA, event was the most visible of four exercises held Sunday in the Puget Sound area. Tacoma, WA, simulated an explosion inside a cargo container. Two other scenarios were simulated by officials: terrorists took over a cruise ship and released a biological toxin, and a motorboat packed with explosives was discovered. The goal was to see how the agencies would respond to simultaneous disasters. The response plan developed in Seattle could become a template for other port cities around the nation. Port officials from New Orleans, Houston, Los Angeles and New York were among those who helped develop the plan and participated in Sunday's drill. Funded by the Department of Homeland Security, the exercise was the first to coordinate so many agencies on waterfront disasters.

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2002514507\\_p\\_ortterror23m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2002514507_p_ortterror23m.html)

31. *September 22, Kodiak Daily Mirror (AK)* — **Alaska first responders simulate disaster situation.** First responders, police officers, hospital employees, city and borough officials in Kodiak, AK, met Wednesday, September 21, to run a simulated disaster to test their emergency response capabilities. At the start of the simulation, the participants were told of a massive "explosion" at Trident Seafoods. Quickly, participants learned that the explosion was most likely a terrorist chemical weapons attack. An area of one-quarter mile, and then a mile, surrounding the blast had to be evacuated. Almost 4,000 Kodiakans had to squeeze into three

buildings outside of the mock chemical cloud; it was the team's job to make them fit. In the scenario, the explosion also knocked the city's water services offline, leaving the simulated Kodiakans without potable water or even water for bathing and toilets. The group was divided into command teams. They worked on everything from treating the wounded to getting the water running to housing and feeding evacuees. The emergency teams also had a chance to iron out kinks in the emergency plan, to offer advice on how to rearrange the 700-plus page book in a more manageable form or to request materials they may need at the command center.

Source: <http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=2019>

**32. *September 22, GovExec* — Senate panel approves grants for first responder**

**communications.** The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Thursday, September 22, approved a measure that would authorize the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to dole out \$3.3 billion over the next five years to enable first responders to communicate better during an emergency. The bill, S. 1725, would authorize \$400 million in state grants to strengthen emergency communications systems next year and increase the amount annually to \$1 billion by 2010. It would establish an office of emergency communications, interoperability and compatibility within the DHS. Legislators focused on the issue after reports of emergency workers being unable to communicate with one another in the critical hours after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast states and decimated telecommunication systems. Before approving the bill, the panel approved by voice vote five amendments, including provisions requiring officials to focus on computer modeling and simulation to create interoperable systems.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0905/092205tdpm1.htm>

**33. *September 22, Washington Technology* — Government to screen first responder radios for interoperability.**

First responders are getting help from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Safecom program to assess whether new two-way radio equipment and systems available on the market meet the industry's interoperability standards, known as Project 25 (P25). The new NIST program, known as the P25 Conformity Assessment Program, will help public safety agencies avoid buying new wireless devices and systems that claim to meet the P25 standards but in fact do not. The program's aim is to prevent incidents in which local police agencies purchase new interoperable radios only to find that the radios are not compatible with other P25 systems. Project 25 was developed by the IT and wireless communications industries over the last decade to create common criteria for new wireless public safety communications devices and systems. The goal was to enable the radios, regardless of manufacturer, to communicate seamlessly with one another. DHS grants for emergency communications systems require that the newly purchased systems be P25-compliant. Yet the only evidence of compliance currently available is from manufacturers' claims. The new NIST program will certify P25 products proven to meet the standards.

Source: [http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1\\_1/daily\\_news/27019-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/27019-1.html)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

34.



**September 22, FrSIRT — Mozilla Suite and Firefox multiple code execution vulnerabilities.**

There have been nine vulnerabilities identified in Mozilla Suite and Mozilla Firefox. These vulnerabilities may be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands or conduct spoofing and cross site scripting attacks. The flaws include buffer overflows, heap overflow errors, stack corruption errors, malformed headers, unprivileged controls, integer overflow errors, error in high privileged "chrome" pages, errors in openings and input validation errors.

Source: <http://www.frst.com/english/advisories/2005/1824>

35. **September 22, Vnunet.com — First PC/phone crossover virus found.** The first mobile phone virus capable of infecting a computer has been found. Experts at have detected the Cardtrp worm that affects handsets running the Symbian 60 operating system. This work spreads via Bluetooth and MMS but could also spread through memory cards. Mikko Hyppönen, chief research officer at F-Secure, said: "The goal of this backdoor Trojan is most likely to cause the user to infect his PC when he is trying to disinfect his phone.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2142665/first-pc-phone-crossover-virus>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

#### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations. US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region.

Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises.

Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack:

1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages
2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised

US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice.

For more information and current disaster updates please see URL:

<http://www.fema.gov/>

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 40000 (----), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 55321 (----), 6886 (----), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 25 (smtp) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

36. *September 23, Associated Press* — **Report: Hotels are one of few industries benefiting from Katrina.** Hurricane Katrina may be blamed for rising gas prices, squeezing airlines' bottom lines, and agriculture shipping delays, but it has been a boon for one industry: the nation's hotel sector. The lodging industry's leading research firm on Thursday, September 22, raised revenue growth estimates for the year by more than a half-percent as a result of Katrina, adding to what already was expected to be the sector's best year since 2000 when the industry profited \$22.5 billion on \$113.7 billion revenue. Tennessee-based Smith Travel Research raised its 2005 revenue per-available-room growth estimate to 8.2% from 7.6%, citing demand from emergency workers and evacuees forced from their homes by Katrina. "We expect total industry profit to near the 2000 numbers," said Jan Freitag, a director of Smith Travel Research. "In terms of total revenue that the industry will generate, we certainly will have the best year that we've ever seen." A combination of a slowdown in hotel construction, with less new rooms coming online, along with an increase in business travel, which dropped significantly after the September 11 attacks, already had positioned 2005 to be the best year for the hotel industry in five years.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/hotels/2005-09-23-hurricane-hotels\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/hotels/2005-09-23-hurricane-hotels_x.htm)

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## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

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### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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